2018

AP CollegeBoard

AP Music Theory

Sample Student Responses and Scoring Commentary

Inside:

Free Response Question S2

- ☑ **Scoring Guideline**
- ☑ **Student Samples**
- ☑ **Scoring Commentary**

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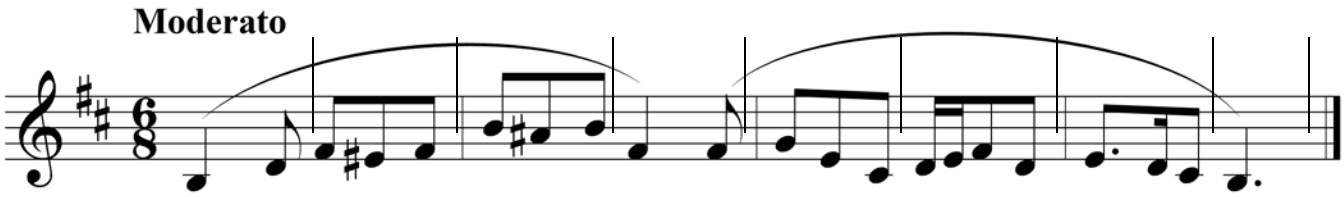
AP® MUSIC THEORY
2018 SCORING GUIDELINES

Question S2

0–9 points

Use EITHER the regular scoring guide OR an alternate scoring guide, whichever gives the higher score.

I. Regular Scoring Guide

- **A.** Score 1 point for each segment (i.e., each half-measure) correct in pitch, rhythm, and tempo (0–8).
- **B.** If at least one segment is correct using **I.A.**, add 1 point for a complete response that has no hesitations or restarts (= overall flow; the "flow" point).
- **C.** Record any score of 4 or higher and move to the next response.
- **D.** If the score is less than 4, try an alternate scoring guide.

II. Alternate Scoring Guides (N.B.: Do *NOT* award the "flow" point in the alternate scoring guide.)

- **A.** If a student sings many of the pitches correctly but is consistently inaccurate in rhythm, you may determine holistically to award up to 4 points for pitch.
  OR
- **B.** If a student is accurate or nearly accurate with respect to rhythm but is consistently inaccurate in pitches, you may determine holistically to award up to 2 points for rhythm.

III. Scores with Additional Meaning

- **1** This score may be given to a response that has two or more redeeming qualities (e.g., retention of the tonic pitch and singing the melody with a correct contour; persistence alone is *not* a redeeming quality).
- **0** This score is used for a response that has no redeeming qualities (or only one) or a response that is off-topic or irrelevant.
- **NR** This score (no response) is used for blank responses (including spoken AP number but no response).

Scoring Notes:

- **A.** If a student restarts, score the last *complete* response, but do *not* award the "flow" point.
- **B.** Score from the tonic established by the student. However, credit any exactly transposed segment approached by the correct interval. In other words, *any segment entered correctly (by the correct interval) is eligible for the point.*
- **C.** The last note may be eligible for the point if the student returns to the original tonic, even if the preceding segments have been transposed, and the original tonic is not approached correctly.
- **D.** If the student changes tempo and continues in the new tempo, do not credit the segment where the change occurs, but credit the ensuing segments.
- **E.** The last note must be held at least to the attack of the final eighth note of measure four for that segment to receive credit.
- **F.** Ignore any use (correct or incorrect) of syllables, letter names, or numbers, as well as expletives, giggles, and the like.
- **G.** If you try both regular and alternate guides, record the higher of the scores.
- **H.** Scores from one guide may *not* be combined with those of another.
- **I.** Listen beyond the end of the performance to ensure that the student made no additional response.

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AP® MUSIC THEORY
2018 SCORING COMMENTARY

Question S2

Overview

This question assessed students' ability to:

- sight read and sing a melody in melodic minor;
- sing in compound duple meter;
- perform common rhythmic patterns in compound meter;
- perform a dotted rhythm;
- sing skips and stepwise motion in both ascending and descending directions;
- sing a melody with a vocal range of an octave;
- perform chordal skips within the tonic, supertonic, and dominant triads;
- sing chromatic neighbor tones;
- establish and maintain a steady tempo;
- establish and retain a sense of tonic; and
- read treble clef.

Sample: S2A
Score: 9

This represents an excellent response. The student sings all eight segments of the melody with correct pitch and rhythm; 1 point was awarded for each segment. Because the student sings without hesitation, the flow point was awarded, resulting in a score of 9. Scoring by segments was: 1111 1111 +1 = 9.

Sample: S2B
Score: 5

This represents a fair response. The student performs segment one incorrectly, singing D-sharp instead of D-natural. The student sings segments two through four correctly. The student performs segments five through seven incorrectly, singing G-sharp instead of G-natural in segment five, and D-sharp instead of D-natural in segments six and seven. Because the student sings without hesitation, the flow point was awarded, resulting in a score of 5. Scoring by segments was: 0111 0001 +1 = 5.

Sample: S2C
Score: 2

This represents a weak response. Using the regular Scoring Guide, 0 points would be awarded, as there are no segments correct in pitch. However, because most of the rhythms are correct, 2 points were awarded using the Alternate Scoring Guide for rhythm.

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